



UCOA
Utah Commission on Aging

Collective Impact of Strategic Partnerships

Utah Digital Health Services Commission – January 7, 2021

Health Care Biggest Threat & Greatest Opportunity

- **Drugs: transparent and affordable**
- **Spending 2-3x with less outcomes**
- **32% Medicare in last 2 years of life**

Assessment Stages of Aging



- Independence
- Interdependence
- Dependency
- Crisis management
- End of life

Independence

Food Insecurity

Social Isolation

Ageism

Abuse & Fraud

Emergency Preparedness

Fitness

Falls Prevention

Affordable Health & Long-Term Care

Caregiving

Mobility

Financial Adequacy

Housing &
Aging In Place

Mental Acuity

End of Life

Social Isolation

- Worse than smoking or obesity
- Increases health care costs
- 17% of 65+ isolated
- Less independent, depressed, adverse health effects

Charting the Course

- Who gets to choose
- Values and priorities
- Desired outcomes
- Cost to fiscal and human relationships
- Prevent systems acting on you



Literacy - Health

- 38% US adults have limited health literacy (LHL); 60% for aged 65+.
- Functional definition: “A limited capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions.”

(Insert: finance, caregiving, advance care planning, partner, etc.)

Waiver Request:

Emergency procedure change, signature requirement for Utah POLST, during COVID-19 State of Emergency:

For the duration of the COVID-19 State of Emergency declared by the Governor, the Utah Department of Health Department is suspending the standard requirement of a written signature on a Utah POLST form, and allows for verbal consent, so that patients' wishes can be safely documented with minimum exposure risk and reliably honored by all EMS personnel and licensed practitioners in hospitals, long-term care facilities and across all health care settings.

Therefore, whenever it is impossible to follow usual POLST standards requiring written signatures, clinicians are to document on the Utah POLST form:

- a) the patient's, patient's health care agent's or guardian's verbal consent;**
- b) who witnessed this verbal consent (in accordance with the standards of the health care facility in which the patient is located); and in addition,**
- c) document in the patient's medical record the details of how verbal consent was obtained.**

Upon reviewing such a POLST form for a patient they encounter, Utah EMS personnel are to accept a form that contains a) and b) in accordance with this procedure.

As long as the witness portion is documented, EMS can accept it as meeting the standards of the health care facility.

AARP - 2020 Tech & 50+ Survey Executive Summary Excerpts

- Tech ownership - no signs of slowing down.
- Once adopted, usage is high with most is daily.
- Not using the technology to its full potential.
- Concerns of privacy need to be addressed.
- Just 11% are confident their information is private.

- **Human Resources**
- **Financial Resources**
- **Technology**

- **Demand for health and wellness technology to enhance provider care is increasing among older adults.**
- **If offered a choice, over half (53%) would prefer to have their health care needs managed by a mix of medical professionals and health care technology.**

Utah Virtual Older Adult Resource Center

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